page portraits, and spot art to show exciting action scenes that match the energy of the text. A distinguished depiction of men and horses, and an under-told piece of history from the Old West. —Andrew Medlar


Fletcher relates more stories about growing up in a large, close-knit family in the 1960s in this winsome sequel to *Marshfield Dreams* (2005). Here he details his “in-between” years and includes family photographs and a hand-drawn map of his neighborhood. He purposely says little about the year his family experienced tremendous loss (recounted in *Marshfield Dreams*) but acknowledges that it shaped his life. As the oldest of 8 siblings until age 18 (when a sister was born), he was responsible for his younger siblings—which meant they all frequently got into trouble, like when they got filthy catching 63 frogs from the nearby swamp. Fletcher loved his first Zenith transistor radio, collected and shot marbles, hated learning to square dance in P.E., and was afraid of girls. In more serious stories, he encounters a bully, witnesses a racist incident, and is shocked by a friend’s death. Fletcher loved writing poetry but struggled to make his “words fly.” They take flight now in this lovingly written, humorous, and poignant memoir. —Sharon Rawlins


For children not familiar with surfer Bethany Hamilton’s tragedy, this biography in the She Dared series recounts the harrowing moment when a 14-foot tiger shark bit off the 13-year-old’s arm. While engaging text puts readers in the life-or-death moment, the book focuses more on Bethany’s recovery. Rather than seeing herself as a victim, the author says she wants to inspire her readers to “fly.” They take flight now in this lovingly written, humorous, and poignant memoir. —Carolyn Phelan


Award-winning and prolific biographer Rappaport turns her attention to the indefatigable Wilma Mankiller. Told in straightforward blank verse with not a frill or fancy phrase in sight, the story begins with Mankiller’s family’s life in rural Oklahoma, where they were “dirt poor,” and ends with her leadership as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation via a long and difficult detour. Readers are provided with minimal details about Mankiller’s childhood as most of the account is of her life as an activist and community leader. Direct quotes from Mankiller’s autobiography are worked seamlessly into the narrative and give it authenticity and weight. Kukuk’s realistic watercolor illustrations are notable for the emotions she captures on people’s faces. This picture-book biography for older readers is an appetizer that will tempt kids to find out more about Mankiller. The author’s and illustrator’s notes are good places to start researching, followed by the additional resources listed at the book’s end. For a global thematic connection, pair with *I Am Farrell* (2019), by Baptiste and Miranda Paul. —Anina Chaudhri

Young


When an African savanna elephant is born, she weighs around 200 pounds and can stand after a couple of hours. Over the coming year, the little elephant’s herd protects her while she nurses, plays, learns to use her trunk, and joins their walks to find food and water. She swims, then rolls in mud. A lion appears, but the adult elephants encircle the calf and face the predator with loud sounds, threatening tusks, and flapping trunks until he moves on. With a few sentences of pertinent text and a couple of large photos or several smaller ones on a double-page spread, the words and pictures together offer an appealing introduction to a young elephant’s first year. While the photos are drawn from varied sources, they represent the little elephant and her herd convincingly.

A new book from the American Museum of Natural History, this is similar in concept and format to *Baby Dolphin’s First Swim* (2017) and *Baby Penguins’ First Waddles* (2018). An attractive addition for preschool and primary-grade units on elephants. —Carolyn Phelan


In this attractive science book, writer and photographer Arnold presents the life cycle of a butterfly as observed in a Los Angeles kindergarten classroom. The teacher brings tiny painted lady butterfly eggs to school and places them in a box with food. As the eggs hatch, the caterpillars crawl, eat, and climb to the top of their containers, where they enter the pupal stage within chrysalises. Transferred to a large net-walled enclosure, they begin to emerge eight days later as butterflies. Outdoors, each one crawls onto a child’s finger, rests, and then flies away. Arnold comments on each step of caring for the animals, as well as each stage of their life cycle. Along the way, she provides just enough information and detail for young children who want to know more. It’s enlightening to observe the butterflies’ stages of life in the clear, color photos, but it’s also a pleasure to see the children’s reactions: curiosity, caution, rapid attention, surprise, excitement, and joy. An appended page answers pertinent questions. An amiable, eye-opening introduction to metamorphosis. —Carolyn Phelan


The crabs want readers to know that they’ve had it with books about cute and fluffy critters, and they’re demanding their own book. This beautifully illustrated alphabet book should make them happy, as full-page spreads offer detailed images and short informational paragraphs about decapods ranging from Arrow Crabs through to their Zebra Hermit cousins. Each page brings a fresh, up-close painting of a new variety, with the only slightly fudged offering being “I for Inocaris,” a crab-like fossil from several million years ago (and be sure to check out the Ninja

The Crab Alphabet Book.